Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 FEA-01 /084 W 074804

R 161130Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6878 INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 9368

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, BR

SUBJECT: CAPITAL FLOWS TO BRAZIL

REF: A. BRASILIA 9290 B. SAO PAULO 2725

1. REFTEL A NOTED THAT A \$1 BILLION CREDIT REPORTEDLY BEING NEGOTIATED WITH KUWAIT WOULD BE APPLIED TO PETROLEUM PURCHASES. ON DECEMBER 12, MINISTER MINES AND ENERGY UEKI ACKNOWLEDGED TO PRESS THAT SUCH LOAN WAS BEING NEGOTIATED, BUT THAT THE CREDIT WOULD NOT BE TOED TO OIL PURCHASES: RATHER THAT GOB WOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY THESE FUNDS ACCORDING TO ITS OWN CRITERIA. ON SAME DAY, PLANNING MINISTER VELLOSO DENIED TO PRESS THAT GOB HAD OBTAINED A \$1 BILLION CREDIT FOR KUWAIT AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY UEKI ISSUED STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED WITH RESPECT O \$1 BILLION CREDIT. UEKI SAID HIS COMMENTS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE, REFERRING TO POSSBILITIES OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN OIL EXPORTERS AND BRAZIOIAN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ENTITIES. (EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT GOB IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATION OF MAJOR LOAN FROM KUWAIT, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UEKI WAS PROBABLY INDESCREET IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE FACT BEFORE

BRAZIL HAD NAILED DOWN A FIRM COMMITMENT. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE OVERALL CREDIT MAY BE DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER OF SEPARATE PACKAGES, CHANNELED THROUGH VARIOUS PRIVATE BANKS AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OR COMPANIES).

2. ALSO ON DECEMBER 12, RIO PRESS REPORTED A STATEMENT BY THE UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND REPRESENTATIVE IN BRAZIL, NORBERT MULLER, WHO STATED THAT THE REDUCTION OF MINIMUM TERMS ON FOREIGN LOANS FROM 10 TO 5 YEARS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPOROVED BRAZIL'S FOREIGN CREDIT STANDING. REPORTEDLY, HE ALSO SAID THAT FURTHER LOWERING OF MINIMUM TERMS WOULD BRING SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FINANCIAL INFLOWS WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING BRAZIL'S FOREIGN DEBT REPAYMENT CAPACITY. MULLER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE RECENT OFF-SHORE OIL STRIKE BY BRAZIL HAD BEEN WELCOMED BY EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS BUT THAT THE COUNTRY'S CREDIT STANDING HAD ALREADY BEEN IMPROVING IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

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